



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release  
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**LEE, NH MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Criminal Investigation Division Special Agent in Charge Michael E. Hubbard announced that **DAVID JENKINS**, 45, of Lee, NH, pleaded guilty in U. S. District Court to an indictment charging him with violating federal law by unlawfully releasing into the environment a substantial quantity of a refrigerant known as HCFC-22, that is strictly regulated on account of its ozone-depleting effect.

At the plea hearing, **JENKINS** admitted to knowingly releasing approximately two thousand three hundred (2,300) pounds of the refrigerant on March 17, 2002, while employed by the Shafmaster Fishing Co. in Newington, NH. According to the factual proffer made by the prosecutor during the hearing, **JENKINS** was responsible for supervising other employees who had properly collected the refrigerant from a fishing vessel. The refrigerant was placed in three separate storage containers for disposal in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. However, **JENKINS** instructed the employees not to proceed with the disposal process, and instead to open the container valves and vent the substance. The employees complied with the direction and vented the refrigerant directly into the atmosphere.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "Federal laws impose reasonable restrictions on the disposal of substances that can harm the environment. In this case the defendant caused acts to be committed in direct contravention of the law. The public should know that the Department of Justice is serious about enforcing our environmental laws, and will bring criminal charges whenever purposeful violations occur."

Jenkins will be sentenced by Chief U.S. District Judge Paul Barbadoro on June 30, 2003 at 9:30 AM. The case was investigated by the Environmental Protection Agency Criminal Investigation Division, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Al Rubega.